

Message Text

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ACTION PA-02

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UNCLAS ANKARA 2306

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PGOV, US

SUBJECT: KEEPING POSTS INFORMED ON CONGRESSIONAL TRENDS AND PROSPECTS

1. THE "CURRENT AMERICAN OPINION" CABLE SERIES (STATE 77905 IS THE LATEST) HELPS US KEEP A GRIP ON AMERICAN ATTITUDES THAT CAN BEAR ON OUR WORK. WE APPRECIATE THIS EFFORT TO KEEP US INFORMED ON TRENDS IN THE COUNTRY WE REPRESENT.

2. WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER EXPANDING THIS KIND OF SERVICE INTO THE AREA OF CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS. OURS IS ONLY ONE OF MANY POSTS WHERE CONGRESS PLAYS AN ACTIVE AND CRUCIAL ROLE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES TO WHICH WE SUBSCRIBE -- INCLUDING CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY'S WEEKLY REPORTS, WHICH ARRIVE A MONTH OR MORE LATE -- DO NOT USUALLY PROVIDE THE FOCUS OR THE KIND OF DETAILS NEEDED BY A FOREIGN SERVICE POST FOR PURPOSES RANGING FROM RECOMMENDING POLICY ACTION TO DISCUSSING ISSUES WITH HOST COUNTRY PARLIAMENTARIANS, BUSINESSMEN, ARMY OFFICERS, AND JOURNALISTS. WE NEED PERIODIC, AUTHORITATIVE REPORTS ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOPICS ON WHICH CONGRESS IS ENGAGED. THESE REPORTS SHOULD PROVIDE ANSWERS TO SUCH QUESTIONS AS WHAT THE TRENDS IN CONGRESSIONAL THINKING ARE, WHAT PROSPECTS FOR ACTION EXIST AND WHEN, WHAT THE LIKELY VOTING LINE-UP LOOKS LIKE, WHAT PROCEDURAL STEPS WILL

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BE FOLLOWED AND HOW LONG THEY MAY TAKE, AND HOW THE ADMINISTRATION IS HANDLING THE ISSUE. IT WOULD SEEM USEFUL TO GIVE THESE REPORTS WIDE DISTRIBUTION ON THE GROUNDS THAT TODAY'S PROBLEM FOR COUNTRY X MAY BE TOMORROW'S PROBLEM FOR COUNTRY Y.

3. SUCH REPORTS WOULD HELP US TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE BOTH IN

CONTACT WORK AND IN PLANNING OUR REPORTING. IT WOULD
ALSO HELP US STAY AHEAD OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER
COUNTRIES WHOSE EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON OFTEN PROVIDE THEM
WITH EXCELLENT CONGRESSIONAL ANALYSES.
SPIERS

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